French willingness to set up nuclear power plants in India

2682. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Ambassador, Mr. Jean Benard Merimme has expressed his country's willingness to set up nuclear power plants in India and also to provide the know-how therefor; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Government has received a preliminary offer from France to set up a nuclear power plant in India on a turn-key basis. This offer will be evaluated in the context of any need for imports in the field of nuclear power.

Opposition to country's atomic energy programme by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Officers

2683. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 4,000 officers of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have questioned the wisdom of country's atomic energy programme;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Solar remote Centres

2684. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a number of solar remote centres in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the places where these centres are proposed to be set up in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The establishment of 68 2x10W unmanned TV transmitters, planned to operate on solar energy, is included in the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan. One of these transmitters has been already commissioned at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan. Four more transmiters are expected to be commissioned, one each at Kavaratti, Minicoy, Amini and Androth in the Lakshadweep group of Islands during March/April, 1987. Installation of the remaining transmitters and their location will depend on the time needed by indigenous manufacturers for phased supply of equipment and the year-wise allocation of plan resources.

Production of Swedish Jas like LCA

2685. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to produce a Light Comba' Aircraft on the lines of Swedish Jos; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government is planning to produce Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) for induction by mid 1990s to meet the specific operational needs of the Air Force. The LCA will be a state-of-art aircraft incorporating advanced technologies and concepts. Air Staff Requirements for the LCA have been finalised. Project Definition Phase of the programme is currently under progress.

Incentive to Toy Industry

2686. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether toy industry have urged Government to reduce levies and give

more incentives in order that children of middle and low income groups are able to have toys; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The All India Toy Manufacturers Association have represented for abolition of excise duty on toys.

(b) A decision would be taken after considering all relevant aspects.

Issue of separate figures by the Central Statistical organisation and the Reserve Bank of India

2687. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Statistical Organisation issue separate figures concerning the State of the economy; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some official committees have recommended that only one set of figures should be issued; and

(c) if so, the reasons for making a departure from this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) is the official agency for release of estimates of national income, savings, etc. These estimates for a financial year are issued in the month of January of the following year. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) while commenting on the performance of the economy in their Report on Currency and Finance also presents the estimates of national income on the basis of CSO estimates of the earlier years and estimated increase in agricultural and industrial production upto July each year. It also gives the rates of savings of the economy and utilises the CSO data on the public sector savings and a part of the savings of the household sector. These estimates are subsequently revised by them when latest CSO data becomes available in January. There are thus differences between the two sets of estimates primarily because of the additional data and detailed work done by the CSO in the intervening period of July to December.

(b) A working Group on Savings set up by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Prof. K.N. Raj to undertake a critical review of the available estimates of saving and investment in the economy recomended *inter-alia* in its report that the two set of estimates of saving of the CSO & RBI should not be different except because of the differences in the time of preparation and release of respective estimates. Accordingly, the two agencies are in continuous dialogue and a number of issues have already been sorted out and it is expected that the remaining issues would be resolved in the course of the current year.

(c) There is no departure from the recommendations of the Raj Committee and the same are being implemented.

Cheating by Punjab National Bank Naroji Nagar

2688. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab National Bank, Naroji Nagar acting through their present manager and his predecessor has cheated M/s. Nath Hardware Store, Rohilla of about 90 thousand rupees through Adarsh Gupta of M/s. Shaily and Shaily Advertising, 242, DDA Office Complex I, Jhandewalan and resident of 123 Mohammad Pur Village, R.K. Puram, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both the above mentioned managers in connivance with other persons encashed the Bank cheques supposedly obtained as security from M/s. Nath Hardware Store through Mr. Adarsh Gupta his brother and a teacher of Government School, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in this direction?